

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ MANUEL
CARABALLO BRAVO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Manuel Caraballo Bravo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Caraballo Bravo is an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba and has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of the tyrant's villainous regime. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Caraballo Bravo was a target of the totalitarian regime.

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression. The courageous men and women, such as Mr. Caraballo Bravo, who write the truth are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Caraballo Bravo was arrested just before the heinous crackdown of March 2003. Reporters Without Borders also reports that he was sentenced to three years in the totalitarian gulag for "forging documents."

Let me be very clear, Mr. Caraballo Bravo is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Caraballo Bravo is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate peoples from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. In the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of José Manuel Caraballo Bravo.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY AND SHOGHAGAT ARMENIAN CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

the 50th Anniversary of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church located in Swansea, Illinois.

The Church has historically been an integral part of the Armenian community. Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 301 A.D. So it was natural that the Independent Club, an organization of Armenian Americans, would seek to start a church for their community in 1956.

The new Church, then named Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church, began in a small white structure at 13th and Summit Avenue in East St. Louis, Illinois. A neighboring parish house and additional parcel of land were later acquired.

Circumstances required that the original church properties be sold in the early 1970's and for several years the congregation had to celebrate the liturgy in different local churches. Throughout this difficult period, the parish family stayed together and finally, in 1978, the new Church in Swansea, Illinois was consecrated.

On the occasion of their 50th Anniversary, in addition to celebrating that milestone for their local Church, the members of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church are paying tribute to their ancestors who were victims of the Armenian Genocide, both those who lost their lives and those who survived. A large khatchkar, carved in Armenia, will be dedicated to honor those who suffered during that terrible period in history.

For 50 years, Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church has served, not only as a place of worship, but as a unifying religious center for the local Armenian community. Though their numbers may be small, their dedication to their Church and their culture remains strong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church and to wish the best to them for many years to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 994, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, every one of us in this chamber mourns the murder of the nearly 3,000 innocent people on September 11th. We all want to take the fight to the terrorists and protect America from those bent on harming us. Each of us wants to commemorate the deaths of the innocent and reaffirm our creed to never forget with an honest, humble, non-partisan Resolution.

We have shared goals, and we can come together and write a Resolution we can all support and of which the American people can be proud.

I am saddened today that partisan politics have entered into the debate of this Resolution today, and that language was deliberately used in this Resolution which is divisive and unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this Resolution, but I regret that it could not have been more

unifying, and I regret that the debate in the House could not have risen above the political fray for just one day.

HONORING 9/11

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, five years ago this week, our generation was defined by the heroic actions of hundreds of first responders, brave Americans and innocent victims who gave their lives on September 11, 2001. That day, 19 Al Qaeda hijackers murdered nearly 3,000 innocent people. Those terrorists had a simple cause: inflict the highest loss of life and the most damage they could to our Nation. They may have succeeded in murdering thousands of people going about their daily lives, but they failed miserably to defeat the patriotic spirit of America and of freedom everywhere.

In the days, weeks and months following the tragic events of September 11th, we saw the patriotic spirit of every American emerge and rally in support of repair and recovery. We saw a nation unified in finding the perpetrators of these crimes and bringing them to justice, and we saw the free world awakened to the possibility of terrorist attacks anywhere and at any time. Simply, 9/11 changed our Nation and the world forever.

Not only did these terrorists steal the lives of thousands, but they opened our eyes to our false sense of security. Like someone who has been robbed at home by a vicious criminal, we must now lock our doors and windows at all times to make sure that those who mean us harm are not allowed to break in.

That being said, I believe that we are safer at home today than we were 5 years ago, but we are still not safe. Our borders are more secure, our intelligence services are more robust and now work closely together, and our armed services have routed out the terrorists in their homes and brought them to justice. But we are still at war. We cannot afford to stand idly by while terrorists operate in this or any country around the world, because we cannot afford another 9/11. Never again can this happen. We owe to the American people who depend on us to provide a safe and secure homeland, and we owe to it the hundreds of thousands of Americans who throughout history have died defending the democracy and freedom we enjoy today. Most of all we owe it to the thousands of innocent victims who died 5 years ago.

We have been battling terrorism for a long time, but September 11th was the day our enemies woke the sleeping giant. Since then, we have seen success in the Global War on Terror and captured some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. We have also made great strides to cripple the organizations and countries that support them. However, we are still faced with an evil enemy who is supported by a rogue nation that's determined to develop nuclear weapons and use them on their enemies. Allowing a nation like Iran, who sponsors terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, to

possess nuclear weapons would be a dishonor to those who died on 9/11 and an insult to those who continue to defend America's freedom.

We promised to help make the world a safer place, free from the threat of terrorism at the hands of mad men. Keeping that promise means preventing terrorists and their supporters from getting weapons of mass destruction. Let's remember those who gave their lives on 9/11 by keeping our promise.

When we remember the events of 9/11, we remember not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans. We must remember the police officers and firefighters that responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon who went in to save lives, but gave their lives in the process. We remember the first responders from every corner of our nation who came to ground zero in the days after to lend their strength, skills and support. And we must remember the innocent people—the husbands and wives, the parents and children and the entire families who were torn apart the day the towers fell.

We must always remember. That is our duty as Americans—that is our charge as patriots.

BURLINGAME HIGH SCHOOL, 83
YEARS YOUNG AND BETTER
THAN EVER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in November 2000 the voters of San Mateo County in California, many of whom are my constituents, made a wise decision to approve a general bond measure that would fund the renovation of the six local high schools. The fruits of this investment will proudly be displayed on September 16, 2006 when the newly-remodeled Burlingame High School is officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Burlingame High was built in 1923 as a northern addition to the fast-growing San Mateo High School. Originally named "San Mateo High School—Burlingame Branch," it quickly came into its own, and 4 years later Burlingame High gained its own identity. That year, many longstanding BHS traditions were born, including the Little-Big Game with San Mateo High, the adoption of the school colors—red and white—and the establishment of the student newspaper, the Burlingame B, with its extraordinary motto, "Not the Biggest, but the Best."

Since its inception 83 years ago, Burlingame's enrollment has swelled from 350 to more than 1350 students and its teaching corps has doubled. Recognized for its academic excellence as a California Distinguished School, Burlingame has also been ranked in the top 1.5 percent of high schools in America by Newsweek magazine. The students and their families deserve great credit, but it is also thanks to the efforts of a dedicated faculty and administration that, on average, 97 percent of the school's graduates attend college.

Mr. Speaker, the modernization efforts being recognized at the ribbon-cutting ceremony have preserved the original building's historically significant appearance for generations of students to appreciate. In addition to maintain-

ing the main building's exterior and interior—including a unique WPA-era mural—this project included two new, seismically sound structures to house a library and a two-story classroom building.

The new library will accommodate 25,000 volumes and provides much-needed storage space for textbooks. It also includes a state-of-the-art computer lab. The treasured work areas where thousands of students through the years have hit the books in the old library are replicated in this modern version.

The new, two-story classroom structure replaces an antiquated music building. It now not only accommodates the renowned Burlingame High School music program, but also seven large science labs, special education classrooms and nine classrooms designed specifically for math instruction.

Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers of San Mateo County made a crucial investment in their children's education by approving that bond measure 6 years ago. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Burlingame High School's wonderful renovation, which will ensure that future generations continue to receive an excellent education at this historic institution.

FREDERICK MENNONITE
COMMUNITY 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frederick Mennonite Community, an elderly continuing care community, on its 110th anniversary.

This community has been providing outstanding service to its more than 300 residents on eighty acres in western Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This bucolic setting is large enough to accommodate a wide variety of lifestyles, yet small enough to maintain a sense of community. Residents have the option to live in independent living cottages, apartments, assisted living, and nursing care facilities. The organization's goal is to offer housing and support options for every individual preference and need. Frederick Mennonite Community strives to promote and encourage every individual to live life to their fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Frederick Mennonite Community on its 110th anniversary. I hope that this community is able to continue to live out its mission statement: "In the spirit of Christian love, Frederick Mennonite Community cares for and enriches the lives of older adults, while valuing the staff, volunteers and community that serves them."

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS ON NATIONAL BACKPACK AWARENESS DAY

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in preparation for National School Backpack

Awareness Day, taking place on September 20, 2006, I would like to recognize the many occupational therapists (OT) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) that live and work in my district. Each September, members of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), students, and other health professionals join forces to alert the public, particularly teachers, parents, and children about the dangers of improperly wearing overweight backpacks.

Occupational therapists are health, wellness, and rehabilitation professionals, dedicated to maximizing the independence, function and performance of their clients. In other words, they provide them with the "skills for the job of living". Concerned that increasingly heavy backpacks may be putting school children at risk for long-term health problems, AOTA is sponsoring its fifth National School Backpack Awareness Day. Thousands of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work in school systems, pediatric hospitals, and other health care facilities, in order to help children develop the skills they need to participate fully at school, home, and in play.

The goal of the National School Backpack Awareness Day is to reduce the load students carry to 15 percent or less of the child's weight. More than 350 participants in schools, stores, and health fairs from all 50 states will help "weigh-in" thousands of children to ensure their backpacks meet the 15 percent weight goal. They will also help educate students about the risks of carrying too much weight, and will teach them the proper way to pack and wear a backpack. As part of the National Backpack Awareness Day, therapists at the General Greene Elementary School in Greensboro, NC will educate students and teachers about the importance of loading and wearing backpacks the right way in order to avoid back and shoulder pain, stooped posture, muscle pain, and headaches.

I am particularly aware of the role occupational therapists play within our public schools as one of the members of my staff previously worked as a school system occupational therapist. OTs use their unique expertise to help children perform important learning and school-related activities that are part of their role as a student. Additionally, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants play a critical role in training parents, staff, and caregivers regarding the education, health, and success of students with diverse learning needs.

Please join me in support of all the occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, school children, and other participants whose efforts will make the 2006 National School Backpack Awareness Day such a success.

HONORING REVEREND WAITSTILL
SHARP AND MARTHA SHARP,
AMERICAN HEROES OF THE HOL-
OCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Waitstill Sharp and his